

NSC BRIEFING

26 October 1954

FRENCH REACTION TO AMERICAN
"CRASH" PROGRAM FOR VIETNAM

I. French greatly upset by US decision to
go forward with program to support
Diem before crisis solved.

- A. La Chambre in Paris asserts
unilateral distribution of
US aid to Vietnam would be
violation of agreement with
General Smith that provided
for tripartite committees.
- B. Says charge that French not
giving all-out backing to
Diem is slur on French honor.
- C. But only last week French
Deputy Commissioner General
indicated French agreement
support Diem made only in
deference US wishes.

~~TOP SECRET~~
D. Obvious he saw disguised
Cochinchina protectorate
as best bet for French.

II. La Chambre insists Diem should make
his peace with Hinh.

A. Goes on to say Diem has lost
all support, even Catholics;
adds Buu Hoi is most popular
person in Vietnam because he
"not well known."

B. Not bothered by Buu Hoi's
leftist tendencies, but if
Buu Hoi moves in, La
Chambre, Tam and Binh Xuyen
gangster, Bay Vien, should
be in cabinet as "strong
men."